



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS AUTHOR TALK DISCUSSING RACE AND RELIGION IN AMERICA

Ongoing Civic Programs Foster Public Conversation about the Constitution

SAN DIEGO – San Diego State University history professor Edward Blum will discuss his new book *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America* on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This program is presented in conjunction with the months long library project, *Searching for Democracy: A Public Conversation about the Constitution* sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities.

How is it that in America the image of Jesus Christ has been used both to justify the atrocities of white supremacy and to inspire the righteousness of civil rights crusades? In *The Color of Christ*, Professor Blum and co-author Paul Harvey weave a tapestry of American dreams and visions--from witch hunts to web pages, Harlem to Hollywood, slave cabins to South Park, Mormon revelations to Indian reservations--to show how Americans remade the Son of God visually time and again into a sacred symbol of their greatest aspirations, deepest terrors, and mightiest strivings for racial power and justice.

Searching for Democracy brings together people from diverse backgrounds to attend and discuss the Constitution at programs including lectures, book discussions, films, digital stories, and performance. Young and old, rich and poor, new citizens and long-term residents will have the opportunity to openly explore the understanding of our American heritage and citizenry. The endeavor will also afford individual library patrons a greater understanding of the Library's vast collection of Constitution related titles and digital resources.

Professor Blum is a historian of race and religion at San Diego State University. He is the author of several books and Blum has been awarded the Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities by the Council of Graduate Schools for the best first book by a historian published between 2002

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and 2009, the Peter Seaborg Award for the best book in Civil War Studies, and the C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize for the best dissertation in southern history. His courses include Antebellum America, the Civil War and Reconstruction, American religious history, and history through biography.

Visit <http://sandiego.communityguides.com/constitution> to find out more about the Constitution series. Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.gov.

Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other

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